



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3:20-25

In this passage, and in much of his time on earth, Jesus was facing persecution and fear from those around him for the good works he was carrying out. Here, they were calling him possessed by Satan, and they were looking for a reason to accuse him, in order that he might be killed. Fear, and violence.

In the work of preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth, our compassionate souls may feel fear at times, and we may feel the weight of the violence perpetrated upon children. Here is a poem, by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, that we can reflect on and pray on, that our trembling hands can spread God’s love in this world.

We who live by compassion
are so small in this world.
It seems sometimes as if
we face a forest fire
of fear and violence
with little paper cups of love.

They appear like magic tricks
in trembling hands,
not much, just little cups,
but we offer them,
the great baptismal, birthing flow
in little cups, mere drops
of God
that flood the world,
that never run out.

Compassionate and loving God, hear our prayer. Amen.